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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Interim President Ntibantunganya Appeals for Peace

EA1008202794 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1800 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The interim president of the Republic has just addressed a message to the Burundian nation. The message is a call to all Burundians to work together to reestablish peace and security as soon as possible. In his message, the interim president said: There is no one who can say he is unconcerned by the various measures taken by yesterday's Council of Ministers. For president Ntibantunganya, government members from all the political parties should talk the same language regarding peace and the policies of this country, otherwise Burundians will be confused and get lost.

President Ntibantunganya called on the heads of political parties to implement the content of the declaration on troublemakers they signed on 6 July and to denounce whoever acted contrary to that declaration. [Words indistinct] the interim president to control their members and on parents to fulfill their responsibilities as educators.

President Ntibantunganya reminded judges that they have to work according to the law.

President Ntibantunganya, in his message, thanked the soldiers who have made extra efforts recently in order to bring restore order in Bujumbura. The interim president also expressed the wish for the negotiations to continue normally.

Defense Minister Calls On Army To Tighten Security

LD1008111294 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Excerpts] It is the turn of Burundi Defense Minister Colonel Gedeon Fyiroko to issue a call for calm and a call to order, which he did on national radio yesterday evening. He called on the Army to intervene: I order all units, particularly those in Bujumbura, to tighten up security measures so that all troublemakers are punished, he said.

It should be said that tension has continued to rise constantly in Burundi, and particularly in the capital, over the last few days. The tension has been rising since the opposition parties pulled out of the talks on a replacement for the current interim government. We have details from our special correspondent, Jean Helene:

[Helene] The troubles in the Burundi capital are apparently being organized by the radical opposition at a time when it is contesting the choice of the governing Burundi Democratic Front [FRODEBU] party with regard to the heads of national security and of the intelligence service,

two sensitive posts. They no doubt want to demonstrate that they have the means to disturb public order until they obtain satisfaction. [passage omitted]

In the medium-term, another of the points under negotiation between the opposition and the government, which more closely resembles an arm-wrestling match, is the appointment of a new president and the formation of a new government. Here, too, the opposition is using intimidation and pressure to achieve its aims, in other words, to obtain a few extra ministerial portfolios. Observers believe that the opposition parties, moderates and extremists alike, seek in the long-term to keep the FRODEBU out of power. This party has no armed force to back up its authority, which stems from the elections in June 1993. Jean Helene in Bujumbura for RFI.

Official Calls For International Conference, Troops

EA1108103094 Bukavu Voix du Zaire in French 0430 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The deputy speaker of the Burundi National Assembly, Christian Sendegeya, who was visiting Bukavu yesterday, met the governor of South Kivu Region, (Kembwa wa Lumona), to discuss the alarming situation prevailing in Burundi over the past few months.

Sendegeya blamed the situation on the opposition, which is reportedly supported by the Army, and which is trying to cause a stalemate to stop a lawsuit being undertaken against the organizers of the abortive coup in Burundi and the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye.

The deputy speaker of the Burundi National Assembly explained his position on the current negotiations among Burundian political circles taking place at the Novotel Hotel. He said he would oppose the so-called Kigobe, Kajaga, and Novotel agreements, because, he said, the agreements went against the will of the Burundi people and against the Constitution. The opposition, Sendegaya added, wants to play a part in government and occupy other administrative and diplomatic posts by means of shortcuts.

In order to avoid the current impasse, the deputy speaker of the Burundi National Assembly proposes that the implementation of the so-called the Kigobe, Kajaga, and Novotel agreements be halted, and that the political partners agree on realistic and firm [word indistinct] of the Front for Democracy in Burundi [FRODEBU] on the extension of the interim period of the current president of Burundi, to allow the organization of an international conference on Burundi under the auspices of neighboring countries, the OAU, the United Nations, and the international community in general.

Sendegeya also said that, for an immediate solution, neighboring and friendly countries and the international community must understand the need and urgency of

sending a neutral force to Burundi, so that government soldiers can return to their barracks. [passage omitted]

Situation in Burundi Termed 'Extremely Tense'

BR0908121994 Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 9 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by Gerald Papy: "Burundi: The Tension Reaches Bujumbura"]

[Text] Events continue to escalate in Burundi. After the breaking off of political negotiations between the government and the opposition on the question of the government agreement and the succession to the presidency, and after the increase in murderous ethnic-political clashes in the north and center of the country, the tension has now spilled over into street violence in Bujumbura itself. The violence left several dead on Sunday [7 August]. On Monday, a "dead city" operation paralyzed all activity in the capital. The situation is extremely tense and the prospects bleak. A neutral observer in Bujumbura told us on Monday that he could detect no "desire to avoid the worst" on the part of the politicians.

Recent events originate in the deteriorating political climate. At the end of July, the opposition parties withdrew from the so-called Novotel negotiations. They refuse to accept the appointment as head of the National Security general administration of Mames Bansubieko, former head of the Documentation (State Security) department, who they accuse of involvement in attempts at destabilization. Faced with the continuing political stalemate, radical students called for a general strike last Wednesday. Seven of them were arrested. Calling for their release, several hundred of their supporters protested in the streets of Bujumbura on Sunday, putting up barricades and provoking clashes which left several dead.

Following in the footsteps of the protesters, the Party for the Reconciliation of the People's (PRP) president traveled the streets of the city calling upon the population to respect a "dead city" operation this Wednesday. The PRP is an opposition party drawn from the Tutsi minority which preaches certain extremist ideas and which has distanced itself from the coalition of opposition parties which are in favor of dialogue with the Burundi Democratic Front, the Hutu party which has been in power since the free elections in 1993. On Sunday afternoon, Mathias Hitimana was arrested and imprisoned.

Imprisoning the PRP leader further fueled the tension. On Monday, Sunday's protesters paralyzed the city from dawn in a "dead city" operation. Bujumbura was like a city under siege, its streets first deserted and then patrolled by soldiers in combat gear.

What are the next few hours going to bring? A battle of wills seems to have been engaged between the Tutsi extremists who have taken control of the streets and

"who no longer seem to identify with the opposition parties" and the government which has had to yield to pressure by releasing the students and the PRP president, while an irresolute Tutsi majority army stands by showing little inclination, according to one observer, to repress Tutsi protesters. The question is, what would happen if the Hutu extremists also decided to take to the streets?

Chad

Government, Rebels Reach Cease-Fire Agreement

LD1108112194 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Last February they were not able to reach agreement in Bangui, but this time it all went right. After a week of discussion in the capital of the Central African Republic, the Chadian authorities and the southern rebels of Moise Tchiete reached an agreement, and not only on a cease-fire. Gaby-Evariste Mepoka reports:

[Begin Mepoka recording] As well as an immediate cease-fire, the agreement provides for the withdrawal of troops of the Republican Guard from the whole of the southern area of Chad, the free movement of peoples and goods, the recognition and legalization of the Committee of National Revival for Peace and Democracy [CSNPD] as a political party by an exceptional and urgent procedure, the abandonment of armed struggle by the CSNPD, and the speedy handover of its men to the follow-up committee for them to be incorporated into the Chadian Army.

The two sides also recognized the need for the transitional government to bring the CSNPD into the democratic process currently underway so that it can express its views on questions connected with the referendum on the form the state should take, the election timetable, and the plan for society, as well as on other questions connected with the future institutions of the Republic of Chad.

They also decided to offer an amnesty to the activists and troops of the CSNPD, and to look for suitable ways to restore peace and security. [end recording]

Rwanda

President, Government Officials Visit Zairian Border

AB1008104494 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Report by Annie Thomas]

[Text] Kigali, Aug 10 (AFP)—Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu and other top government officials left Kigali for the Zairean border Wednesday [10 August] as part of a mission to persuade refugees to come home, an official source said.

The leaders of the new regime, installed by former rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) after they seized the capital last month, were due to meet officials from Zaire, which is host to more than a million refugees, the source in the prime minister's office said.

Meanwhile, the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) was preparing to escort government officials into the humanitarian safety zone established by French troops in the southwest of the country, UNAMIR commander General Romeo Dallaire said.

Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu recently denounced what he described as French colonisation of the zone, established in June after two months of ethnic slaughter, and complained that government officials needed visas to travel in their own country.

The Tutsi-led RPF opposed the French intervention in Rwanda, accusing Paris of supporting previous Hutu majority regimes and arming government troops and extremist Hutu militias blamed for the genocide of more than half a million people.

"The French have lifted their concerns" about an RPF presence in the zone, Dallaire said, adding that with regard to visits by government officials, "we are working on that, to coordinate the methodology."

"Now that the French have said the government can go to the zone, it certainly will," an RPF officer told AFP.

The United Nations and its relief agencies are also keen to bring refugees home from Zaire, where tens of thousands have died of disease and exhaustion in sprawling camps.

It also wants to forestall a massive exodus of new refugees to Zaire when the French withdraw from the safety zone on the expiry of their UN Security Council mandate on 22 August.

Staff of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has warned that hundreds of thousands of people, many of them displaced, may leave the zone for fear of bloody reprisals by the RPF following the genocide once the French pull out.

Dallaire and the UN special representative to Rwanda, Shagargar Khan, on Tuesday visited the French zone, where UNAMIR troops from other African countries are due to replace the soldiers deployed by Paris.

The UNAMIR chief later reiterated that "we certainly hope" to take over from the French on schedule. An Ethiopian battalion is among the soldiers due to move into the area.

Rwanda plunged into the ethnic bloodbath after the death on 6 April of Hutu president Juvenal Habyarimana in a suspected rocket attack on his plane.

President Bizimungu Fails To Appear for Talks

AB1008141494 Paris AFP in English 1404 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Gisenyi, Rwanda, Aug 10 (AFP)—Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, awaited at this town on the

border with Zaire for talks with Zairean officials and UN refugee agency staff, failed to arrive on schedule Wednesday [10 August], a UN spokesman said.

Bizimungu and other top government officials had been due to meet staff of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Zairean officials in a Gisenyi hotel at 8:00 a.m. (0600 GMT), but they had still not appeared by the beginning of the afternoon, UNHCR spokesman Panos Moutzis said.

The prime minister's office in the Rwandan capital Kigali had early Wednesday said that Bizimungu was on his way to Gisenyi with the premier, Faustin Twagiramungu, and other government members to assess the situation in Rwandan refugee camps in eastern Zaire.

More than a million Rwandans face disease, famine and exhaustion in camps in Zaire, but many are reluctant to return home for fear of renewed bloodletting after ethnic carnage claimed up to a million lives in the three months following the death of former president Juvenal Habyarimana in a suspicious plane crash on 6 April.

The mainly Tutsi former rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), who seized power last month and installed the new government including members of the Hutu majority, accuse former government troops and extremist Hutu militias of genocide.

Zaire

Decree Establishes Crisis Management Committee

AB1008113394 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Zu Zola and Makoli Baba have just entered the studio. Well, Zu Zola, what is new at the prime minister's office?

[Begin Zola recording] Well, Kalia Tshimbadi, I have here two decrees jointly signed by Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo and Gustave Mulumbavice Mbangula, deputy prime minister and minister of interior.

Decree No. PM 001 of 9 August 1994 concerns the creation of a crisis monitoring organ. Here is the full text of the decree:

The prime minister, considering the provisions of the Transitional Constitution, especially Paragraphs 1 and 80, and Paragraphs 2 and 3; considering the provisions of Ordinance No. 94/039 of 16 June 1994 on the investiture of the prime minister and head of the transitional government; considering the government's decision of 29 July 1994 declaring the regions of North Kivu and South Kivu disaster areas following the cabinet meeting, decrees:

Article 1: A Crisis Management Committee has been formed to help solve the problems posed by the massive influx of refugees into the North Kivu and South Kivu disaster areas.

Article 2: The Crisis Management Committee is made up of representatives from the prime minister's office, as well officials from the following ministries and organizations—the Ministries of Interior, National Defense, Justice and Keeper of the Seals, International Cooperation, Foreign Affairs, Planning, Transport and Communication, Public Health and Family, Social Welfare, Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, the UNDP [United Nations Development Program], and the UNHCR.

Article 3: The members of the Crisis Management Committee will benefit from an allowance provided by the government.

Article 4: The activities of the Crisis Management Committee will be coordinated in the field by representatives from the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs.

Article 5: The Crisis Management Committee is under the authority of the prime minister and head of government.

Article 6: The duty of the Crisis Management Committee is to protect refugees and their property, organize all activities aimed at helping and guiding these people, ensure contacts between government and humanitarian organizations, facilitate the return of refugees to their countries, identify and ward off all obstacles that could

prevent the refugees from returning home, make the local people benefit from humanitarian aid, prevent the movement of people and foodstuff from affected regions to other regions of the Republic, supervise vaccinations, carry out general cleanup and sanitation operations, and finally, ensure the disarmament of military refugees on Zairian territory.

Article 7: The Crisis Management Committee's range of operation is the North Kivu and South Kivu regions. It has operational headquarters in Goma and Bukavu. Its activities are coordinated from Kinshasa.

Article 8: The Crisis Management Committee submits a weekly report to the prime minister. Its mission will come to an end with the presentation of a final report, when the circumstances leading to its creation shall have disappeared.

Article 9: The deputy prime minister and the ministers involved in the administration of the Crisis Management Committee are charged with the execution of this decree, which comes into effect on the date of its signature.

Issued in Kinshasa on 9 August 1994

Signed: Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo and Malumba Mbangula, deputy prime minister and minister of interior. [end recording]

Mandela Says All Leaders in Government United

*MB1008125894 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1237 GMT 10 Aug 94*

[Text] Windhoek Aug 10 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela on Wednesday [10 August] assured South Africans his government of national unity was united with all its leaders committed to serving their country.

"We speak with one voice," he said during tea with staff at the South African High Commission in Windhoek during a state visit to Namibia.

The African National Congress was so confident its policies were correct that it did not intend to use its majority to influence cabinet decisions. To date, Mandela said, every cabinet decision had been taken by consensus. He guaranteed government would not implement any radical policies except those necessary to better the lives of South Africans by providing food, housing and jobs.

Deputy President de Klerk Discusses Unity on Key Issues

*MB1008145294 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1342 GMT 10 Aug 94*

[Text] Senate Aug 10 SAPA—All government of national unity party [GNU] leaders should co-operate more to unify attitudes on key activities such as the economy, housing and education, Deputy President F. W. de Klerk said on Wednesday [10 August]. Introducing the first budget debate on his vote, he said the National Party [NP] was dedicated to making the best possible contribution to the GNU.

South Africa could count on the NP to participate enthusiastically, constructively and critically in the work of the government. "Such an approach will promote South Africa's national interest much more effectively than the adversarial opposition role that has traditionally been adopted by minority parties," Mr. de Klerk said.

He reiterated, however, that the NP's participation in the GNU was not unconditional. The party insisted that it should be able to play the full role envisaged for it in the interim constitution and it would retain its identity.

"We appeal to the other parties in the government of national unity to join hands with us in a common effort to meet the challenges that confront our nation. Together, we have the power to build a successful, peaceful and prosperous society. Let us do it."

Mr. de Klerk said South Africans had to cultivate the spirit of co-operation and accord in all spheres of its national life that would make it possible for it to achieve such basic goals as:

- Establishing a strong, genuine and lasting democracy;
- Creating an environment in which all communities

could live together in peace, security and mutual respect;

- Cultivating a culture of respect for the individual and cultural rights of all, enforced by a strong and independent judicial system;
- Building a strong and vibrant economy, based on the tried and tested principles that had succeeded elsewhere in the world; and
- Addressing the pressing social needs of large sections of the population through the provision of affordable, caring and effective social services.

South Africans would not succeed in this regard if they continued to waste their energies in fighting one another instead of working together for the common good. Mr. de Klerk said it was critically important that, at this stage of their national history, as many South Africans as possible should feel themselves to be included in the process of government.

The NP truly believed it could make an indispensable contribution to the achievement of agreed-upon common national goals. "We urgently and genuinely wish to make a success of the RDP-in-the-making."

The NP had for long already shared the goals of the RDP. This was clear from the considerable increase in social spending during the four years of his state presidency.

The problem had not been a lack of will to handle the problems, but the unwillingness of those involved to accept the initiatives of a government they considered illegal.

"The point is that all South Africans—black, white, rich, poor, employers and employees, old, young, men, women—have a basic interest in the success of our society," Mr. de Klerk said.

Deputy President Mbeki Answers Questions

MB1108083494 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1615 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Question-and-answer session addressed by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in the House of Assembly, Cape Town—introduced by Patricia Glyn on the "Six-on-One" program]

[Text] [Glyn] The tradition started by former State President F. W. de Klerk in Parliament in which the head of state answers questions from the floor without prior notice will be continued by President Mandela. The first of these fortnightly question-and-answer sessions of the current parliament took place today. However, as Mr. Mandela could not return in time from his state visit to Namibia, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki fielded the questions. Eight members put questions to him, and here is an edited version of some of those questions.

[Begin recording] [National Party Member of Parliament Trevor Lee] Mr. Deputy President, why has the Government of National Unity not as yet taken appropriate steps in the current labor unrest which is spreading like wildfire through our country, and number two, have you quantified the negative effects of the strike action on the economy in general, but more specifically on the implementation of the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program]?

[Mbeki] Madam Speaker, the honorable minister of labor has, I am sure, as the honorable member must have seen in the newspapers, been very interested in these matters, has participated in processes of resolution of some of these strikes, has been asked to intervene in others, so the government, therefore, has been doing what it should do with regard to the strikes. But having said that, government is also of the view that we must respect the process of collective bargaining, that that process includes employers and workers, and that in support of those processes, the government should therefore not unduly interfere. It should allow negotiations to take place; and I'm saying in the instances where there has been an intervention, it has been with the agreement of both sides in the particular dispute.

I don't know what is meant by quantification of negative effects. There was a dispute involving one of the super-market chains. The dispute was resolved, I suppose, to the satisfaction of the two parties that were in contest. I would imagine that they don't themselves say that that agreement constitutes a negative, so how to quantify something which is not considered a negative by the people involved is a bit difficult. So government is interested, government will continue to be in contact with everybody involved in these processes. The minister of labor is in contact with the disputants, for instance, in the automobile industry, is in contact with disputants in other disputes, and I say, to the extent that government can intervene and needs to intervene, it will do, but respecting the rights of employers and workers to negotiate wages and conditions.

[Freedom Front Member of Parliament Petrus Groenewald] I want to ask the deputy president, does he think that it is fair and just to write off a debt of more than 700 million rands of Namibia, seeing that the people of South Africa who are earning more than 50,000 rands per annum have to pay another levy of 5 percent tax—whether you think it's fair?

[Mbeki] With regard to the levy, I would have thought that as South Africans, we would be prepared to make a sacrifice for democracy and peace. Father Christmas to ourselves, yes, I think that is a good thing. I think as South Africans, we should be happy to say we have contributed something to the resolution of this conflict. I think there are people like the president who spent many years in jail, as part of their resolution of this conflict, and I think that it is probably unfair to many South Africans out there who are proud that they were

able to contribute something to the process that's leading to the end of racism, to a process that is leading to the establishment of this democratic, nonracial, and hopefully non-sexist House, that South Africans will be proud that we contribute this little bit to produce that result. So I don't think it's a matter you can take and compare with somewhere else. I think we shouldn't approach the matter as: If we can do this here, why do we do the other there? Because the things are not comparable, in my view.

The question of the sorting out of the relations between ourselves and Namibia is not a simple question. It is a rather complicated question. Among other things, it did include Walvis Bay, and include the matter that you refer to. I think in the context of ending a particular relationship, which was a colonial relationship between this country and Namibia, in the context of ending that, and in the context of establishing a basis for good, strong, friendly relations between the people of this country and the people of Namibia, I think there are certain things in this country that we can do to achieve those results, and I do believe that if the writing off of that debt, given the history of the relationship of this country to Namibia, given what we want to achieve, I think if the writing off of such a debt contributes to the creation of that relationship, a good, friendly, good-neighborly relationship, I think we should do it.

[ANC Member of Parliament Peter Hendrickse] Madam Speaker, whereas the new appointments of director generals to all the newly constituted government departments is designed to ensure transparency and appropriate, effective leadership in the implementation of the RDP, the question of the job security of all civil servants has been raised through the media and in other fora. Can the deputy president, with regard to this, clarify the government's position concerning the process of rationalization, affirmative action, and the constitutional guarantees of the civil servants?

[Mbeki] The Constitution, Madam Speaker, guarantees job security, and does not guarantee particular jobs. The government is bound by that, because the government respects what the constitution says. But there are other things, Madam Speaker, that are obviously very, very wrong with our public service. Two of the things that need to be corrected are the gender and racial discrimination in terms of the constitution of the public service. Therefore, the government in the process of looking at the rebuilding of the public service, bearing in mind that constitutional guarantee of job security, has to address, at the same time, the questions of gender and race discrimination, and therefore, in the process of the reformation of that public service, those matters are being taken into account.

That, of course, includes the process of rationalization, of bringing together all these different civil services that we inherited from the homelands and so on. That process of rationalization is taking place, and I don't think we can promise, Madam Speaker, that the process

will be entirely painless, because clearly we've got to look, in some instances, as to whether people were properly employed, we've got to look at questions whether there was not nepotism and corruption in the employment of people, we've got to look to the question of ensuring that the government keeps to what it has said in public, which is generally to look towards a slim and effective civil service. All of those processes are afoot, and the government is convinced that in the end—I'm not talking about today or tomorrow—in the end, we will produce a civil service that is representative of all the people of South Africa, that is efficient, that is accountable to the people that it has to serve, who are the people of this country, and a civil service which, I'm sure, we will all be proud of.

[Democratic Party Member of Parliament Mike Ellis] Madam Speaker, the honorable Mr. Lee partly raised the issue I wish to raise today, but I do wish to be more specific. I would refer to the honorable deputy president: Over the past few months we have seen a continuation of the strikes that have taken place for several years now by professionals and workers involved in the health care industry, especially those in the public service. What, Sir, is your government's attitude to strike action by workers in the health industry, especially when the lives of patients are often placed in jeopardy by such actions, and, Sir, do you have any plans to prevent such action in the future?

[Mbeki] I think we need to repeat this, Madam Speaker, that the government respects the right to collective bargaining. The government, therefore, among other things, respects the right of workers to form unions, so that they can represent them and participate in that collective bargaining. We do believe that people in the health sector also should have a right to negotiate wages and working conditions with their employer. We believe that that right among health workers, as among others, ought to be represented, ought to be respected, that right. Quite clearly nobody, including the people in the health sector, would want to act in a manner that would endanger lives. Nobody—not the government, I'm saying not even the health workers themselves.

The issue that needs to be addressed is putting in place mechanisms so that, when disputes arise, they can be negotiated and resolved before you get to strikes. So you will see, I am sure, later, introduction of various legislation dealing with the matter of labor relations, intended to strengthen the capacity to resolve disputes of this kind

as quickly, as peacefully, and in a manner that is as acceptable as is possible to every party that will participate in such a dispute. So I'm saying the critical question is to put in place mechanisms so that disputes, when they do arise, can be resolved, if possible, without resort to strike. I'm sure you have heard the president speak quite often about the importance of industrial peace, but to achieve industrial peace means that you must create the mechanisms which would ensure that that industrial peace takes place with the interests of everybody having been taken care of. [end recording]

NP Questions ANC on Proposed Scrapping of Namibian Debt

MB1008170994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] The National Party [NP] has questioned the ANC's commitment to implementing its Reconstruction and Development Program, in the light of President Nelson Mandela's proposal to write off Namibia's 700 million rands debt. In a statement in Cape Town, the party spokesman on foreign affairs, Dr. Boy Geldenhuys, said almost 35,000 houses could be built for this amount. Dr. Geldenhuys said that if President Mandela continued to play Father Christmas in Africa the program could be forgotten, unless the full burden was placed on the taxpayer.

Defense, Finance Ministers To Approve Intelligence Projects

MB1108071794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2103 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] National Assembly Aug 3 SAPA—Projects from the R37 million [rand] for military intelligence would all have to be examined and approved by the ministers of defence and finance, Defence Minister Joe Modise said on Wednesday [10 August] night. Replying to the debate on the defence appropriation, he said he had already seen these proposals.

A white paper on a role of women in the defence force would be presented to Parliament before the end of the current session. The military was in the process of "civilianising" and to this end he had already appointed Lt.-Gen. Pierre Steyn as secretary of defence.

The SA National Defence Force was seen as a national asset and could provide security in South Africa not only from a military point of view but security in housing, employment and health.

Angola

UNITA Official Discusses Peace Talks, Aid Distribution

*MB1008194494 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 10 Aug 94*

[Interview with UNITA Spokesman Jorge Valentim by correspondent Emily Casreel in Lusaka on the "Focus on Africa" program; date not given]

[Text] There are more reports of agreements being reached at the Angolan peace talks in Lusaka, where the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebels have been negotiating since last November while the war at home has raged on. There has been talk of progress before on technicalities and modalities, but always there have been sticking points such as who should control UNITA headquarters at Huambo, and what the role of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi will be. On the line to Lusaka, Emily Casreel asks UNITA Spokesman Jorge Valentim what real progress had been made this time.

[Begin recording] [Valentim] For example, we have agreed that UNITA participation on administration of the country at central, provincial levels, and municipality should be done through province by province, related to military pull out of the UNITA troops from some areas, and sometime we agreed that every place where UNITA pulls out from the provinces for example, should also be starting out all political reforms, for example, the UNITA participation at police and administration.

[Casreel] Now, the talks have been carrying on for a rather long time. Why should people believe that what has been achieved is any more significant than before, given the fact that war is continuing in Angola?

[Valentim] This time we are discussing more seriously than Bicesse. In Bicesse people rushed so much and they had no time to discuss things in detail, like in police, it was just one sentence, UNITA will be invited to participate in police, but at present there is a real principle of how the police will be controlled, how the people will be protected by law to avoid arbitrary arrests.

[Casreel] While talks have been carried out in Lusaka, aid agencies working in Angola are not able to provide food for people in cities like Malanje and Kuito because security has not been guaranteed. Why aren't you doing more to ensure that aid agencies can go into these cities and allow people to be fed?

[Valentim] You know what, Malanje and Kuito is not the only place in Angola. We can say also that Huambo, Jamba, Mavinga, Uige, Zaire, they are Angolan places. For a long time they didn't have food, something went wrong on the policy of distribution of food.

[Casreel] But why don't you take the first step to allow the aid agencies to distribute food in cities like Kuito and Malanje, and at least stop some Angolans from starving?

[Valentim] You know, in politics you give first step, you give second, another time is another who will take also first and second. Politics is give and take, just not to be blind, to be manipulated all the time. We are for distribution of food all over Angola, and the Angolans are equal, people in Malanje and Kuito they are the same people like in Huambo and other places, and what we want now is for things to be clarified. Today we got a report from Mr. Beye, we will send the information to our superiors and we hope the two sides, government and UNITA will come out with understandable and practical measures in order to allow distribution to all Angolans in our country. [end recording]

UNITA Wants Huambo Governorship Before Signing Accord

MB1008203694 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Report by Alves Antonio in Lusaka]

[Text] The negotiating parties have begun preliminary talks on security for senior officials of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. Jonas Savimbi's representatives say, however, that they will only sign the Lusaka Protocol if UNITA is accorded the governorship of Huambo Province. The meeting held this morning did not produce substantial results. The negotiators limited themselves to [words indistinct] preliminary agreements on the issue under discussion. UNITA requested more time to study and react to the document presented by the government on the issue yesterday.

In a press communique issued today, UNITA feels there is progress in the peace talks. Despite this, the communique adds, UNITA will not sign the Lusaka Protocol if it is not accorded the governorship of Huambo Province, including some unspecified districts and communes.

In its press communique, UNITA stresses the contribution of the Republic of Zambia in presenting some modalities to overcome the problem of Huambo. The communique stresses that these modalities were drawn up at the request of Alioune Blondin Beye, special representative of the UN secretary general in Angola. The communique also lauds South African President Nelson Mandela for his imaginative contribution to resolving the Angolan conflict.

Meanwhile, today the TIMES OF ZAMBIA, publishes on its first page a report on the peace talks under way here in Lusaka. Jorge Valentim, UNITA's No. 2 at the peace talks, is cited as having sworn that his movement would not sign the Lusaka Protocol without the governorship of Huambo where, according to him, UNITA obtained 78 percent of votes during the 1992 elections.

What is more, UNITA wants the removal of all militants of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola in a high position in the ministries accorded to it. It should be pointed out that UNITA was accorded the Ministries of Geology and Mines, Commerce and Tourism, Health, Public Works, and Culture.

Political observers feel that this UNITA attitude has something to do with the recent allegations by Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Chikoty to the *Zambian press* that UNITA should forget Huambo.

Despite all this, the government negotiators, aware of their responsibility, continue to be firm, trying at all costs to control all the obstacles, including the most difficult, until peace is achieved. In turn, UNITA says that it will only leave the *Zambian capital* after everything is concluded.

Radio Reports 45 MPLA Soldiers Killed in Kuito

MB1108070094 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The city of Bie [Kuito], on the Central Plateau, was rocked by fierce clashes on 9 August. This happened when the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, FAPLA, Military Command for Bie Province decided to embark on yet another offensive, after receiving the relevant orders from Luanda's Futungo de Belas Palace. The aim of the FAPLA forces was to capture new positions currently being held by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA, troops.

Chiquito Prata, the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel, Vorgan, correspondent in the area reports that the FAPLA offensive was thwarted, adding that fierce clashes were continuing yesterday. A total of 45 Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, MPLA-PT, soldiers were confirmed killed in the wake of a counterthrust by the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, FALA. One of those killed was Major (Catalco), chief of General Staff of the FAPLA forces in the Bie Province Military Zone and commanding officer of the attacking MPLA-PT troops. Another nine unidentified officers were also killed. The FALA forces also burned a T-55 tank and a (?Patrol) military vehicle, along with all their occupants, and captured at least 39 weapons. Search operations are continuing at this stage.

Mozambique

UN Official Discusses Preparations for Elections

MB1008165294 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with UN Security Council Official (Ibrahim Gambari) by correspondent Josephine Hazeley in Maputo on the "Focus on Africa" program; date not given]

[Text] Time is running out for Mozambique's peace process supposed to culminate in general elections in October. A United Nations Security Council team is in the country this week to see how it is all going. Voter registration was due to be completed by the middle of this month. The demobilization of the two armies, the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] government and the former rebel Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] forces has been delayed by endless logistical problems and a series of mutinies. There are those who despair of everything being ready in time. On the line to Maputo, Josephine Hazeley asked (Ibrahim Gambari), the leader of the Security Council team, if he thought things were on course for October's elections.

[Begin recording] [(Gambari)] I think the parties are committed to completing the demobilization and I think it will be done more or less by the 15th August. If there is postponement, it will not be by much.

[Hazeley] What about in the matter of holding the elections, do you feel, in your view, that everything is in place now for having a smooth election, the registration, etc?

[(Gambari)] Everything is not in place, but both parties are committed to the election date, and we spoke with the chairman of the National Elections Commission, Mr. Mazula, and he is up to the task of dealing with a lot of problems, one of which is, of course the registration. The deadline for the registration is about 20th or so August, because, according to the electoral law, enough time must be made available for the campaign, you know, and the publication of the voters' register. As of now, they only have about 5 million registered voters out of a total of about 7.7 million, but there is still some time, and they hope to reach at least 6 million registered voters. That is one thing, then the transportation problems, the issue of voter education, civic education, but this cannot all be resolved in advance of the election. I think they just have to keep working on them until the election date.

[Hazeley] So, as far as you are concerned, as of this stage you have no reservation whatsoever that things are on course for the October elections?

[(Gambari)] No, I am not minimizing the problems, but I am saying that the two parties, the government and Renamo, the two principal parties, as well as other political parties are really committed to having those elections, and committed to working with the electoral commissions to try to eliminate the obstacles and reduce the problems. [end recording]

Chissano Refutes Fumo's Electioneering Accusations

MB1108090494 Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 8 Aug 94 p 1

[Excerpt] President of the Republic Joaquim Chissano has described as false and erroneous the accusations that have been made against him by Domingos Arouca, leader of the Mozambique United Front-Democratic Convergence Party

[Fumo-PCD], who had said the Mozambican head of state has been doing electoral campaign work before the legally stipulated period for legislative and presidential election campaigning in the country.

The Fumo-PCD Party has entered into legal action, accusing Joaquim Chissano, the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] candidate in the elections scheduled to be held in October, and the Frelimo Party, of doing electioneering work before the agreed date of 12 September. Those charges have already been conveyed to the National Elections Commission, CNE, and they are being discussed.

The Mozambican head of state was in the area of Catembe when he spoke to the media at the end of his five-day working visit to the city of Maputo on 6 August. President Chissano noted that, contrary to what Arouca and his party think, what he and the Frelimo Party have been doing is to encourage people to turn up at voter registration centers to become eligible voters for the upcoming October elections.

The president of the Republic also affirmed he had learned about it all through the newspapers, adding he had not personally received any such accusations. Nonetheless, President Chissano stressed that he neither agreed nor understood those accusations.

"I keep telling the people that they are not forced to vote for Chissano or for the Frelimo Party. In fact, the Frelimo Party has done most of the mobilization work concerning the electoral process," he noted. [passage omitted]

Government Reports Renamo Violation to Visiting UN Team

MB1108074194 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The UN Security Council mission currently visiting this country is scheduled to visit the city of Chimoio, the capital of Manica Province, today. It is worth noting that the Mozambican Government has advised the UN team that the Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo, still has 4,000 armed men in Maquina, Dombe, Manica, and (Jaua) in Tete Province.

That UN Security Council team arrived in the country on 7 August to learn about the evolution of the Mozambican peace process.

Mutinying Soldiers Assault Army Officers, Block Road

MB1008195394 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Report by correspondent Tome Gris from Beira]

[Excerpts] This morning a number of government soldiers from the Sofala Military Provincial Command mutinied in the Matacuane army camp, in the city of Beira, demanding to be immediately demobilized. Early

this morning soldiers belonging to several units of the city of Beira, at present assembled at the Provincial Military Command and waiting to be demobilized, blocked traffic in the road linking Matacuane ward to Macurungo leading to Macuti ward. Armed soldiers carrying grenades, AK-47's, and submachine guns detained vehicles passing by, but released the drivers. The mutinying soldiers, who accuse their chiefs of trying to forcibly integrate them into the new Mozambique Defense Armed Forces [FADM], held hostage the chief of General Staff of the Sofala Military Provincial Command and the chief of personnel. We interviewed some of the mutinying soldiers. [passage omitted]

We interviewed the chief of personnel, who at the time was locked in a cell with the chief of General Staff of the Sofala Provincial Military Command.

[Begin chief of General Staff recording] It is known that everyone has registered to be demobilized and awaits his turn. I am also awaiting to be demobilized since I have also registered for this purpose. However, I do not know why my name has not yet come up for demobilization. [end recording]

The two army officers, who were detained in a cell during the interview, told Radio Mozambique that they had been assaulted by the mutineers. In fact they showed signs confirming this, since the chief of General Staff had a swollen eye, his clothes were dirty and he was barefoot. Meanwhile, the mutiny of the soldiers of the Sofala Provincial Military Command ended about 1200 [1000 GMT] after the arrival of a UN Operations in Mozambique [Unomoz] official from the Cease-Fire Commission [CCF]. He promised that by 17 August everyone will be demobilized. A source from the CCF Regional Commission revealed that more than 100 soldiers of the Sofala Military Provincial Command were demobilized yesterday. The Sofala Provincial Military Command was scrapped on 8 August.

Three Parties Unite To Form Democratic Union

MB1108081194 Maputo DOMINGO in Portuguese 7 Aug 94 p 2

[Excerpt] The Democratic Union [UD] is the name of the first coalition of the opposition political parties which was made official in Maputo on 4 August. It consists of three political parties, namely, Palmo [Mozambique Liberal and Democratic Party], Panade [National Democratic Party], and Panamo [Mozambique National Party]. The UD will be led by Deputy Palmo Chairman Dr. Antonio Palange, and Panade Chairman Dr. Jose Chicuarra, who will hold the positions of secretary general and deputy secretary general respectively. However, the coalition emerges with one party absent: the PRD [Democratic Renewal Party] whose secretary general Manuel Panganane said he is still considering whether his party should join the coalition.

The UD comes to the spotlight of the national political scenery with five clear objectives:

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- To win the first multiparty elections;
- To form a coalition and national unity government;
- To review the constitution of Mozambique immediately after the elections;
- To present a concrete and feasible development and national reconstruction plan;
- To implement the policy of separation of power and administrative decentralization from provinces to locations.

Our reporters contacted UD Deputy Secretary General Dr. Jose Massinga to obtain more details. He said that "the idea of coalition comes as a result of the need to create something stronger so that we participate in the elections with a firm footing."

Massinga also said the UD will do everything so that its member overcome part of the difficulties they would eventually face had they been separate.

He said, "We need to stage a strong campaign throughout the country in a short time, and we will work to achieve that." Dr. Massinga revealed that the negotiations which culminated with the creation of the UD faced difficulties, one of which was the issue of the ideology of the coalition, since some parties favor federalism and others a unitary system.

He said, "We did not form a coalition to promote the spirit of federalism, but to dethrone Frelimo" and added, "The decision to implement federalism should not come from one party, but from the people through a referendum, that is why this idea was discarded." [passage omitted]

Namibia

RSA's Mandela: Reducing Taxes Way To Solve Financial Crisis

MB1008142194 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1319 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Windhoek Aug 10 SAPA—South Africa's financial crisis would be best solved by reducing taxes, President Nelson Mandela said in Windhoek on Wednesday. "We have to bring down the tax level," he told staff at the South African High Commission before ending a brief state visit to Namibia.

This would help to attract foreign investors currently deterred by the high tax rate.

Mandela said South Africa's financial crisis was caused by debt rung up by the former government, which over-borrowed when taxes alone were not enough to finance apartheid.

Favors Scrapping Namibia's Debt

MB1008150194 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1401 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Report by Jonathon Rees]

[Text] Windhoek Aug 10 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela said on Wednesday [10 August] that he personally favoured scrapping Namibia's R800 million [Rand] colonial debt, but would have to consult his partners in the government of national unity on the issue. The inherited debt, expected to top R1.3-billion after interest, was discussed with President Sam Nujoma during Mr. Mandela's brief state visit to Namibia, which ended on Wednesday.

"My own view is we should be upfront in assisting our neighbour, which is a developing country, without having to be burdened by obligations assumed by a government of oppression....," he said, referring to South Africa's colonial occupation of Namibia which ended in 1989.

Mr. Mandela on Tuesday told his host a very important announcement on the debt would be made "in due course".

The announcement would also deal with South African assets left behind in Namibia at independence, an extradition treaty and repatriation from South Africa of Namibians who served the then SADF [South African Defense Force].

Namibia has previously asked Pretoria to cancel the colonial debt, saying it could not be held responsible for spending by the colonial regime. The debt was rescheduled after independence in 1990, with payments of R78.5 million due annually from next year to 2012.

Mr. Mandela said it was imperative the matter was addressed sensitively, taking into account Namibia's position as a developing country.

Makes Progress in Arranging Savimbi Meeting

MB1008164694 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1610 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Windhoek Aug 10 SAPA—Progress has been made in arranging a meeting with UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader Dr. Jonas Savimbi, President Nelson Mandela said on Wednesday [11 August]. Dr. Savimbi was earlier reported to be ready for talks with Mr. Mandela, who last month met Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko in Pretoria to promote the United Nations-guided peace process in Angola.

Mr. dos Santos and Mr. Mobutu agreed in that meeting to restart bilateral talks that stalled years ago over Zaire's support for UNITA.

In a communique on Wednesday after a meeting between Mr. Mandela and Namibian President Sam Nujoma, they urged Dr. Savimbi to fully co-operate in efforts to finalise peace talks being held in Lusaka.

UNITA resumed its war against the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] Government in late 1992 after losing UN-monitored elections that many hoped would bring peace to Angola, hit by civil war since independence from Portugal in 1975.

Guinea-Bissau**President Vieira Wins in 'Free and Fair' Elections***AB1108093494 London BBC World Service in English
0600 GMT 11 Aug 94**[From the African News]*

[Text] President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau has won a narrow victory in the country's first multi-party presidential election. Provisional results in the second round of the election gave President Vieira 52 percent of the vote. The opposition challenger, Kumba Yalla, received 48 percent. The United Nations election observer mission in Guinea-Bissau says Sunday's [7 August] balloting appears to have been free and fair. In the first round of the elections last month, no candidate won an outright majority. President Vieira has ruled Guinea-Bissau since 1980, when he took power in a military coup.

Liberia**Taylor's Demand for Cabinet Reshuffle Said 'Preposterous'***AB1008183994 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT
10 Aug 94*

[Text] Monrovia, 10 Aug (AFP)—Demands for a ministerial reshuffle by faction leader Charles Taylor were "preposterous", the head of Liberia's collective presidency said Wednesday [10 August], branding them an attempt to "dismantle" the transitional government. "If this action is supported, Taylor could go on removing people from the Supreme Court, Elections Commission and the State Council," said David Kpomakpor, chairman of the State Council or collective presidency set up on 7 March.

National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) Chairman Taylor on August 4 demanded the replacement of three NPFL-nominated ministers.

Kpomakpor stressed: "This is preposterous and ridiculous and I vehemently oppose it."

Labour Minister Tom Woewiyu, supported by Justice Minister Laveli Supuwood and Internal Affairs Minister Samuel Dhokie, on 20 July branded the NPFL leader an "enemy" of the Liberian people and accused him of "atrocities."

Kpomakpor said the transitional government "has performed well" despite the problems of "a five-member collective presidency which must have consensus before decisions are taken." "The problem lies with the adamant refusal of warring factions to disarm," said Kpomakpor.

The NPFL is one of three signatories to an inter-Liberian peace accord signed at Cotonou in neighbouring Benin in July 1993, which led to the setting up on 7 March of

transitional institutions, including the transitional government and State Council. However, fighting has continued and elections scheduled for 7 September are now widely expected not to take place on that date.

NPFL Minister's Reaction*AB1008221194 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 10 Aug 94**[From the "Focus on Africa" program]*

[Text] The NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] is apparently in the throes of a major leadership split. On Monday [8 August] on this program, the front's leader, Charles Taylor, told us he had suspended three of his colleagues who have been serving in the Transitional Government of Liberia known as the LNTG [Liberia National Transitional Government], which was set up under the Cotonou Peace Accord last year. Each of the three main factions has representatives in the government and in the Council of State but Taylor said he was replacing the three ministers who had accused him of standing in the way of peace: Tom Woewiyu, Sam Dhokie, and Laveli Supuwood, who is the minister of justice. On the line to Monrovia, Josephine Hazely asked Mr. Supuwood how he reacted to the news that they had been suspended.

[Begin recording] [Supuwood] Taylor is in no position to dismiss anyone in the LNTG. We, as cabinet ministers of the LNTG, do not speak directly for factions. From the day we took the oath of office, we became ministers of the Republic of Liberia. Taylor by himself, who is now an ordinary citizen merely presiding in Gbarnga to ensure disarmament, does not have any authority to remove or appoint anybody within the LNTG.

[Hazely] Let's face it: You are representatives from the NPFL, so you cannot just ignore their decisions.

[Supuwood] I think we have to assume that there is an NPFL that is independent of the LNTG. NPFL, or NPRAG [National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly Government], has merged into a larger organization which is now the LNTG. As you see, the ability of the warring factions now is merely for the limited purpose of disarmament. Their limited function now is to ensure disarmament, nothing else. So nobody in any of those organizations now has an exclusive power to remove anybody from within the LNTG. What we need to do now is to create the conditions leading to free and fair elections. Anybody who is obstacle to this process, as Mr. Charles Taylor himself, is anti-NPFL.

[Hazely] So does it mean that because—as you have said—Charles Taylor is, as you say, anti-NPFL that the NPFL is now split and might end up with factions like ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia]?

[Supuwood] NPFL is not split. Charles Taylor cannot split the NPFL. Charles Taylor and all our people know

that we have a declared objective: that is to ensure the participation of our people in the political decision-making of this country, and that is why we took [up] arms to fight. We made him leader, so if we are not satisfied that he is taking our line we have a right to remove him. On the other hand, he does not have a right to change the directions of our movement.

[Hazely] Now, the three of you have been sacked and you, for example, you have been replaced by Momolu Sirleaf, according to the NPFL from Gbarnga. Now, if Momolu Sirleaf comes to Monrovia, what will happen, to take up his new job, what will you do? [sentence as heard]

[Supuwood, laughing] Who.... [Supuwood laughs, pauses] In the first place, I have not been removed from office. As I am saying, whatever Mr. Taylor has said on BBC is null and void and does not jive with the declared objectives of the NPFL. NPFL objective is to bring peace to this country, and what Taylor is trying to do is to undermine that process.

[Hazely] I take it then that you will not be going to Gbarnga (?at least), they say, for consultations.

[Supuwood] No, not to consult Taylor on this issue. I think that would be glorifying something that does not exist. I shall go to Gbarnga. I shall go to Gbarnga. We will be reaching Gbarnga on a scheduled basis. It is not only Gbarnga. There are other areas of the country now where we are planning [to visit] to make sure that our men are properly placed to begin functioning. [end recording]

Renewed Fighting Reported Between NPFL, Peace Council

AB0908172394 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Monrovia, 9 Aug (AFP)—At least 15 civilians have been killed in fresh fighting between two armed factions south-east of the Liberian port city of Buchanan in the last week, fugitives arriving here Tuesday [9 August] said. The deaths followed an attack last week by Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) on the rival Liberia Peace Council (LPC) in a bid "to recapture lost territory," witnesses said.

UN sources in Monrovia Tuesday [9 August] confirmed the fighting and said "several wounded persons" were receiving treatment in hospital in Buchanan, 90 km (55 miles) south-east of Monrovia.

LPC leader George Bolay and former Taylor ally Tom Woewiyu are both signatories to an agreement unveiled on 3 August under which the parties agreed to cease hostilities. Taylor has refused to contemplate the widening of transitional institutions to include the LPC, which emerged after the July 1993 inter-Liberian peace accord signed at Cotonou in neighbouring Benin. However, the NPFL is split after Woewiyu, labour minister in

the transitional government, branded the movement's nominal leader an "enemy" of the Liberian people and accused him of being responsible for "atrocities."

Nigeria

NCL Reportedly Split Over Conditions for Strike End

AB1108112894 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] As oil workers continue their strike, the Nigerian Labor Congress (NLC) is divided. At the national level, the NLC had decided to postpone any action until after the next court appearance of Chief Moshood Abiola, saying they expect him to be released from jail. But the NLC's Lagos branch has pledged to continue the strike. I spoke to Sola Odumfa, our reporter in Lagos and asked him about the split:

[Begin recording] [Odumfa] The split, I should say, is traditional within the NLC. The southern unions have the tradition of militancy, which the unions in the north do not have. So, it's not surprising that unions in Lagos, and the western part of the country especially, are being militant in this case, and the northern unions are saying: No, we will not go on strike.

[Kayode] So, the Lagos branch is the only branch that has pledged to continue the strike in support of the oil stoppage?

[Odumfa] As of yesterday, it was only the Lagos State council of the NLC which met and decided formally to continue the strike. But even when the NLC suspended the strike last week, all the state councils in Oyo State, Oshun State, and all the states in western Nigeria did not call off their strike, and they were still on strike as at yesterday.

[Kayode] The national NLC say they expect Abiola to be released when he appears in court next week. What makes them think that things will be different this time, because the last time Abiola refused the offer of bail?

[Odumfa] The last time, which was last Friday [5 August], there were conditions attached to the bail. Chief Abiola was asked to sign an undertaking that he would not address any political rally, that he would not cause trouble, he would not do anything that might disturb the peace of the country. And, of course, these were not acceptable to a politician of Chief Abiola's status, and he refused it.

[Kayode] So what makes the NLC—the national body of the NLC—what makes them think that things will be different this time, that the conditions will be different this time?

[Odumfa] The NLC has been negotiating with the government for over a month now, and each time the

government assured it that Chief Abiola would be released unconditionally, and according to the president of the NLC, each time the government reneged. But this time, after the government had tasted what the NLC could do nationally by calling out workers, I think they believe that the government will now honor its word.

[Kayode] Presumably, the NLC Lagos branch does not have the same faith in the government releasing Abiola next week?

[Odumfa] That would be correct, because when they met yesterday, they said they would rather wait until the government released Chief Abiola and other political detainees before they took a decision. [end recording]

Condemn Attempts To Weaken Unions

*AB1008182594 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English
1700 GMT 10 Aug 94*

[Text] Leaders of the Nigerian Labor Congress [NLC] in 15 out of the 30 states in the federation have condemned attempts to render trade unions ineffective through the introduction of tribalism in their activities.

In a communique at the end of a one-day meeting in Kano, leaders of the congress warned that labor would gain nothing from the current political crisis in the country. They described the ongoing political crisis as an intrapower struggle which is aimed at perpetuating the exploitative tendencies of the ruling class on the workers.

The NLC group reaffirmed their commitment to the corporate existence of the nation, adding that only the labor movement could guarantee the unity of all Nigerians. They appealed to their members nationwide to purge themselves and identify with workers' interests for better political agenda.

The 15 NLC leaders urged the national secretariat to desist from attempts to create problems in states that disobeyed what they called politically motivated strike action which was ordered by the central working committee of the congress. They called on the NLC president, Comrade Pascal Bafyau, to resume sitting at the National Constitutional Conference to protect the interests of the workers at the forum.

NUPENG Threatens To Go Underground if Banned

*AB1008190394 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 10 Aug 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Nigeria oil workers union is not letting up in its six-week confrontation with the military government of General Sani Abacha. They have been on strike demanding the release of self-declared president Moshood Abiola and the military government's removal. There has been little give on either side. The government is apparently thinking of tough measures against

NUPENG [National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers] and in a statement issued today, NUPENG say they do not even think about it. From Lagos, Sola Odunfa reports:

[Begin Odunfa recording] The NUPENG statement in Lagos today was the strongest it has made since it began its strike six weeks ago. The union said that it has received what it described as dangerous signals from the presidency in Abuja that it will be proscribed any time from now. In its statement signed jointly by its president and its general secretary, the union warned that its proscription would lead the entire country into darkness. The union said such action by the government would lead to violent reaction from all sectors of the oil industry and from people in the country's oil producing areas.

It said that all progressive unions, pro-democracy organizations, and the Nigeria Labor Congress would also act in its support. On its part, NUPENG said that it would go underground and act in what it described as a more deadly manner. The union suggested that rather than declare it illegal, government should reach a compromise with it on its demands for democratization of the country and better management of the oil industry.

Meanwhile, the Central Labor Committee of the Nigeria Labor Congress is meeting to take a final decision on the results of its negotiations with the government. The meeting at the congress headquarters in Lagos has been rowdy today. At a stage, a congress official invited the police to chase out journalists who apparently were eavesdropping on the heated discussions. The congress leadership is split between union leaders who back the president's conciliatory approach to the political crisis and others who are pressing for militants' support for the petroleum workers who have been on strike for the past six weeks. [end recording]

NUPENG, PENGASSAN To Meet Federal Government

AB1008213094 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 10 Aug 94

[Text] The two striking unions in the oil industry are to meet the Federal Government tomorrow and Friday [12 August]. The general secretary of NUPENG [National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers], Chief Frank Kokori, told newsmen in Lagos today that the meeting is at the instance of the labor minister, Samuel Ogbemudia, toward finding a solution to the six-week-old industrial action. The NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA quotes Chief Kokori as saying that NUPENG's meeting with the Federal Government team has been scheduled for tomorrow, while that of PENGASSAN [Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria] will take place on Friday.

Defense Official Explains Port Harcourt Refinery Incident

AB1108080094 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The Defense Headquarters has explained that military personnel deployed to Port Harcourt refinery during the recent industrial action by the NLC [Nigerian Labor Congress] were there to provide security and forestall sabotage. In a statement in Lagos yesterday, the director of Defense Information, Brigadier General Fred Chijuka, said that the refusal of the soldiers to allow workers of the refinery to the complex was because they were not aware that the strike had been suspended. He refuted reports by some newspapers that fighting occurred at the refinery, because soldiers wanted to force their way into the refinery to procure petroleum products. Brig. Gen. Chijuka renewed his appeal to the mass media to refrain from reports that could cause disunity in the country.

Commercial Activities in Jos 'Grinding to Halt'

AB1008144194 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 10 Aug 94

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] The strike by oil workers in Nigeria is halfway through its second month, and shows no sign of relenting. The strike is part of a campaign for the release of the detained opposition leader, Chief Abiola, and a call to an end to military rule; and the action has an (?undoubtedly bad pressure) on the government, but in the midst of this this, what are the pressures on the average Nigerian?. [words indistinct] in Lagos and the southwest. What about further north? Rimash Awulu, in the city of Jos, had this report:

[Begin Awulu recording] Commercial activities in Jos, capital of Plateau State, are grinding to a halt as the

spoke of the oil workers' strike bites harder. The strike action has crippled most activities. Most noticeable are the long chains of motor vehicles awaiting petrol, as well as the children and women, some with little babies on their backs, who have to (?stand through the rains) of Jos to get kerosene for their stoves. The National Electric Power Authority has announced major power cuts, and it is living up to the name Nigerians have given it. That is: Never Expect Power Always. Most affected is the kitchen. Cooking gas is not available. Where available, its price has risen by over 200 percent. One housewife told me that she now wakes up in the night, however late, whenever there was light to cook or boil water. People have resorted to using charcoal, and the charcoal market is booming. The Federal Government campaign to discourage the use of firewood has suffered a major setback, as most people who cannot afford expensive cooking gas now use firewood. Also at the receiving end of this are the small scale businesses, such as computer and photocopying centers, as well as the barbering saloons, whose equipment depends on power. Most of them have more shops, or operate for one or two hours—whenever there was light. Business trips are also being canceled because of the irregular flight schedules and the lack of aviation fuel.

However, not all Nigerians are losing. The biggest beneficiaries are now the soldiers, who use both whips, gun butts, and sticks to beat and chase away civilians while they commandeer the petroleum products, which they resell at exorbitant prices. Due to persistent complaints, the state government last weekend withdraw all soldiers from petrol stations. The special adviser to the state administrator, Mr. Gideon Balde, who announced the order, also admitted that 20 petrol tankers, meant for Plateau State from Port Harcourt refinery, had disappeared. He, however, did not say whether the 20 soldiers who were escorting the petrol tankers from Port Harcourt are also missing. [end recording]

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